

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) An oil filter comprising:

a housing main body having an inlet passage and an outlet passage;

a cover detachably attached to the housing main body and having a recessed portion that opens toward a housing main body side;

a partition member disposed in the recessed portion of the cover so as to be movable into and out of the recessed portion and partitioning a space between the cover and the housing main body into a filter chamber on a housing main body side and an oil suction chamber on a bottom side of the cover;

a seal member interposed between the partition member and the cover to provide a seal therebetween;

a biasing unit for urging the partition member in a direction to increase the volume of the oil suction chamber;

a filter element disposed in the filter chamber for filtrating oil introduced thereto; and

a communication passage for providing communication between the oil suction chamber and the oil filter chamber;

wherein when the cover is attached to the housing main body, the partition member is pushed down into the recessed portion of the cover against the bias of the biasing unit; and

wherein the biasing unit holds the partition member pressed against the housing main body so that the volume of the oil suction chamber increases as the cover is moved increasingly away from the housing main body upon removal of the cover.

9. (Original) An oil filter according to claim 8, further comprising a check valve that is disposed in the communication passage and opens when the volume of the oil suction chamber increases.

10. (Original) An oil filter according to claim 9, further comprising an oil draining device for allowing the oil suction chamber to open to the outside arbitrarily.

11. (Original) An oil filter according to claim 10, wherein the oil draining device comprises a valve mechanism that opens when the oil suction chamber is urged to decrease in volume.

12. (Original) An oil filter according to claim 11, wherein the valve mechanism comprises a check valve.

13. (Previously Presented) An oil filter according to claim 8, wherein the volume of the oil suction chamber when the partition member is moved maximumly toward an open end side of the recessed portion of the cover is set larger than the maximum volume of oil that can remain in the housing main body and the cover upon removal of the cover.

14. (Previously Presented) An oil filter according to claim 8, wherein the filter element is detachably attached to the partition member.

15. (Original) An oil filter according to claim 8, wherein the cover is threadedly engaged with the housing main body.

16. (Original) An oil filter according to claim 8, wherein the communication passage has an end that is positioned so as to immerse into oil remaining in the cover and the housing main body upon removal of the cover.

17. (Original) An oil filter according to claim 16, wherein the communication passage comprises an annular chamber formed between an opening portion of the housing main body and an outer circumferential surface of the cover, a first connecting passage formed in the housing main body to provide communication between a lower portion of the housing main body at which oil remains and the annular passage, and a second connecting

passage formed in the cover for providing communication between the annular passage and the oil suction chamber.

18. (Original) An oil filter according to claim 17, further comprising a check valve that is disposed in the second connecting passage and opens when the oil suction chamber increases in volume.

19. (Original) An oil filter according to claim 18, wherein the first connecting passage connected at one of opposite ends to the annular passage extends therefrom so as to slant downward toward the other of the opposite ends.

20. (Canceled)